

# THE UPDATE



## Christmas 2017

The Advent season begins on Sunday, Dec. 3, and in each Sunday worship service we will be reflecting and preparing for a joyful Christmas celebration as we worship together. As we enter the Advent season, we remember all the ways God has blessed us. We especially remember the greatest gift from God: sending His Son, Jesus, into our earthly humanity, to walk amongst us, love us, ultimately die to pay the price for our sins, and rise again as death could not overcome Him. We invite you to join us each Sunday this Advent season.

These weeks of preparation will culminate in our Christmas services on December 23 and 24. There will be three identical services for you to choose from—one of these services should fit into your otherwise busy schedule, and we hope you will invite your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to come with you to one of these services, where they will enjoy beautiful and encouraging Christmas music (both traditional and contemporary), share in some of our Christmas traditions, and connect with this story of hope, perhaps for the first time.

### Bring an item to share

If you are able, during Advent or when you attend one of our Christmas services, we encourage you to bring one or more of these items to share with homeless persons in our area:

- Sweatshirts/hoodies (size M-XXL) - male and female
- \$10 Walmart gift cards
- Hairbrushes and hair ties - female
- Warm socks - male and female

*List cont'd on page 2*

### Christmas Service Schedule:

- Saturday, Dec. 23, 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 23, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 24, 10:35 a.m.

### Worship Service Schedule:

- New Year's Eve (Sunday, Dec. 31): one worship service at 10:35 a.m. with care for infants-preK
- Our regular worship service schedule and K-12 Sunday schedule will resume on Jan. 7.

Cont'd from front page:

Long underwear - male and female	Twin sheets
Hand/sock warmers	Light blankets
Watches with alarm - male and female	Coffee
Diapers	Powdered creamer
Baby wipes	Gift cards for gas, Walmart, Dillons
Towels	Coats - teen and adult male and female
Washcloths	Men's gloves
Shampoo/conditioner	Snow/winter boots - all ages
Body wash	

All items collected will be donated to the Lawrence Community Shelter.

## Discipleship Ministries

### Primetimers (for 50+)

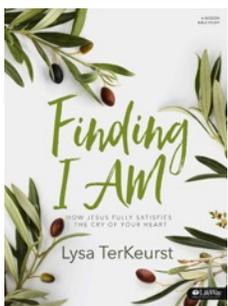
Tuesday, Dec. 12, at noon in Rm. 24/25

Our monthly fellowship potluck luncheon in November was one full of thanks, delicious casseroles, salads and desserts, as well as the traditional turkey, dressing and, gravy. With over 30 attending, including several guests, it was a great time of getting to know each other better and meet new people. Afterward, Doug Heacock gave a fascinating history of the nation of Haiti itself and the Kids Alive ministry, as well as his personal experiences and heartfelt love for the people of Haiti after traveling there on several mission trips over the years. Judy Rahn followed with a personal testimony of how God faithfully supplied her with the funds to go on last year's Haiti trip through the giving of others, and inspired us all to either think of going ourselves or to serve by enabling others to go. She shared many special memories from her heart, as well as wonderful pictures from her trip last January. We were all so thankful for their willingness to "go out" in this way and care for others in His name, as well as for LFMC's commitment to Kids Alive Haiti.



On Tuesday, Dec. 12, we are all looking forward to Tom Sack sharing Christmas stories and songs with us after our meal together. Please join us at noon that day in Rm. 24/25, and feel free to bring a friend and one food item or dessert to share. (Store bought is fine!) Starting on Dec. 12, we want to invite anyone who would like to have more fellowship time to come as early as 11:30 in order to visit before the meal. The program will begin around 1 and conclude by 1:30. If you need transportation or have questions, please contact Ron or Diane Bringus at (785) 594-3661.

*But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another... 1 John 1:7*



### Finding I Am - Women's Bible Study

What is the deep cry of your heart? The prayer you keep repeating? After the first of the year, we will begin a new women's Thursday morning Bible study, "Finding I Am". We will join Lysa TerKeurst on the streets of Israel to explore the seven I AM statements of Jesus found in the gospel of John. As we go through the lessons, we will come to know Jesus as never before and discover how his words spoken 2,000 years ago are applicable to our hearts today.

## Student Ministries

### Chili Cook-off

Sunday, Jan. 21, 5 p.m. in the FLC (gym)

The teens will be hosting the Influx Chili Cook-off again this January! Donations will go toward continued needs as we wrap up finishing touches on the downstairs remodel. This will also count as a service event for the Silver Dollar City trip. So, whip out your secret family chili recipes and compete for prizes! Join us for food, fellowship, and fun activity!



## Children's Ministries



### December in DU

Every good and perfect gift comes from God. In fact, generosity is at the very core of God's character—He even gave us His own son, Jesus! Jesus showed unwavering generosity as He traded His life for ours. And, because God gave us Jesus and Jesus gave His life, we can be generous towards others. Not only that, but when we are generous towards others, we prove that we love God by loving the people He loves. We pray that this Christmas, as kids celebrate God's amazing generosity, they'll see how they can be generous with their family, friends, and neighbors.



#### WEEK 1

**Key Question: What do you have to give?** Kids don't

immediately know what they have to offer. They don't have a lot of money, and may not have a lot of stuff either. Thankfully, generosity isn't just about money and stuff. Kids will discover the heart of generosity and realize that they have more to give than they might have thought.

We start our look at generosity in **I John 4:9-11** where we discover that generosity starts with God. Because God loved us so much, He sent Jesus to be our Savior and make it possible for us to be with God forever.

**Bottom Line: Because God gave, I can give.**

John goes on in this passage and writes, *Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another* (NIV). As kids respond to God's generosity in their own life, we pray they will be generous with their family, friends, and neighbors.

#### WEEK 2



**Key Question: What are some ways you can give this Christmas?** By this time in the month, kids might know what gifts they are giving to others.

This question isn't about the physical gifts kids can give, but the creative ways they can show generosity to others throughout the Christmas season.

We will take a look at important generosity principle Paul wrote to Timothy in **I Timothy 6:18**. *Command the rich to do good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share* (NIV). Paul knows that our wealth isn't based in how much we have, but in what we do with it.

**Bottom Line: Look for creative ways to give.**

As we have gifts and giving on our minds, Christmas is a natural time to talk to kids about generosity. Often, they feel like they don't have anything to give. Thankfully, all of us can be rich in

good deeds. We'll help kids discover how they can look around and discover all sorts of ways they can give to others with their time and talents.



**WEEK 3**

**Key Question: What does Christmas mean to you?** The Christmas story is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible

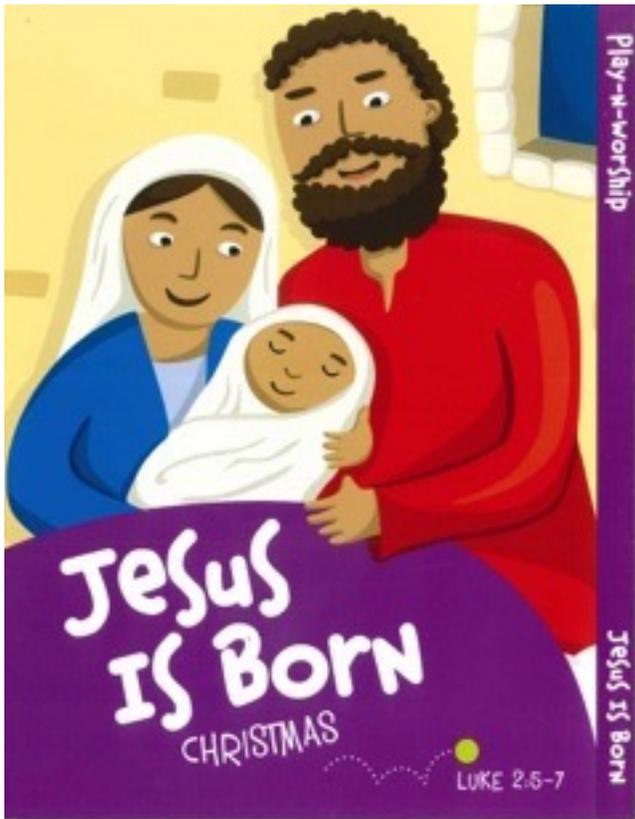
—even if you didn't grow up in church. At some point, kids need to decide for themselves if they believe it's true, if Christmas is more than the presents and time with family. We pray this will be the Christmas many kids will see Jesus in a new way and decide to put their faith in Him.

It's Christmas! We head to the familiar story in **Luke 2:1-18**. While people expected a new king born in a palace, God had other plans in mind. Jesus was born in a place where they kept the animals. No royal robes, not much public fanfare, just Mary and Joseph cuddling Jesus for the first time. God announced His gift to shepherds helping us realize that Jesus was a gift for everyone.

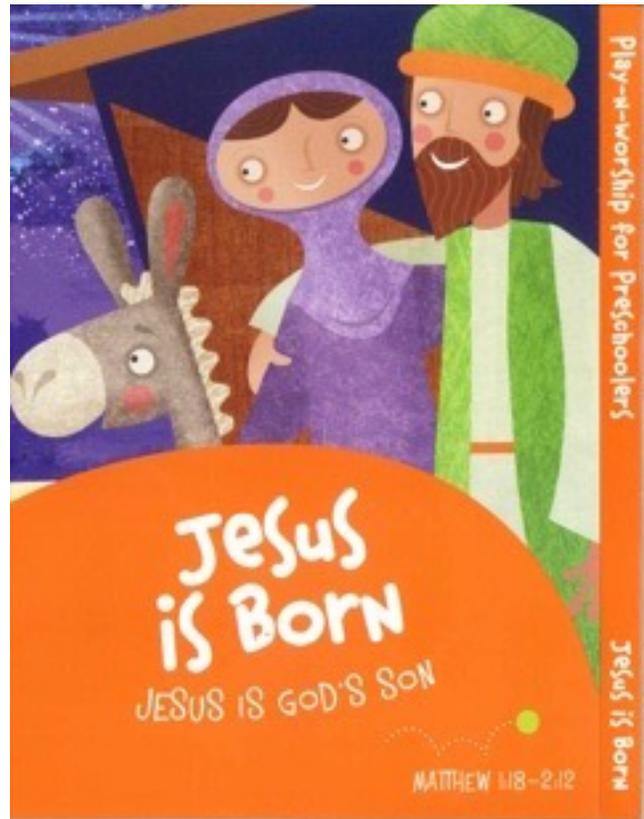
**Bottom Line: God gave us Jesus.** Kids will get the chance to celebrate Jesus, God's most generous gift. They'll discover why God sent Jesus for us, as well as what that means for how they show generosity to the people in their life.



**December in Twos...**



**and in Threes and Fours**



## Misc.

**Senior Pastoral Search Process**

The Pastoral Search Committee (consisting of Mary Yoder, Shari Flakus, Terry Jacobsen, Sherry Schaub, Dan Flynn, and Ken Wagner) continues the work to identify a senior pastor candidate for appointment by the Free Methodist Conference to lead our church. The Committee has considered and reviewed over 15 candidates and continues working closely with the Free Methodist conference leadership. This work has narrowed the search to two candidates:

- Pastor Alan Duce, who is a Pastor in the Nazarene denomination and is currently serving a church in Michigan
- Pastor Alex Alexander, who is ordained in the Free Methodist denomination and currently resides in Austin, Texas.

The appointment of a new pastor at LFMC will be made by the Free Methodist conference leadership sometime in early 2018. Both candidates have been to our church and interviewed by the Search Committee, Ministry Board, church staff, and the conference MEG/MAC Board.

The Search Committee continues to be prayerful regarding the task of recommending a new pastor. We are appreciative of the prayers that continue to be offered by those in our church body.

We also want to recognize the input that the Free Methodist conference leadership has afforded our church in allowing us to have input into the appointment process. It is an exciting time in the life of the church. We will keep the congregation informed as additional progress is made.

—Pastoral Search Committee



## November Ministry Board Minutes

Ministry Board Meeting  
November 14, 2017

**Attendees:** B. Bump, D. Flory, M. Flory, J. Gadzia,  
J. Oehlert, T. Shearburn, K. Wagner

Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer.

Minutes from the October 10 meeting approved; M. Flory 1<sup>st</sup>, K. Wagner 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### FYI

- Anam Cara, Nov. 18, highlighting women's talent in our church
- Celebration Sunday: one service at 10:35 (child dedication, baptisms, acceptance of new members, and communion)
- New Attenders Luncheon took place on Oct. 22.
- Family Promise going on during the week of Nov. 13 with LFMC members helping with host site

### Discussion Items

- Christmas Eve Services: 2 on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 and 7:00, 1 on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:35
- Year-end deficit and capital campaign: communication to congregation on Nov. 19, stating that \$180K is needed through end of year to finish year in the positive. Capital Campaign communication will cease until after the first of the year.

### Team Reports

#### *Financial Team:*

K. Wagner reported monthly and year-to-date financials. For the month of October, the actual income was \$57,098 and the actual expenses were \$56,028. The total actual income B(W) expenses was \$1,070.

#### *Capital Campaign:*

T. Shearburn reported that \$232,910 have been pledged thus far. The third floor build-out and the first phase of the Worship Center are funded according to the pledges. MarLan construction will be contacted regarding possible start dates in 2018.

#### *Facility Team:*

Piano being looked at regarding possible water damage and the extent of it stemming from a roof leak.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.

## Celebration Sunday

On Celebration Sunday, Nov. 19, we worshiped and celebrated together all God has done with one big worship service which included communion, child dedications, and baptisms!



## Sunday Services & Programs

9:00 a.m.

Blended Worship

Care for infants through preschoolers

10:35 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

Care for infants through 2-year-olds

Programs for preschoolers through 12<sup>th</sup> graders

## Church Office Information

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-5 p.m.

Phone: (785) 842-2343

[office@lfmchurch.org](mailto:office@lfmchurch.org)

[www.lfmchurch.org](http://www.lfmchurch.org)

### Bill Bump

Senior Pastor

[bbump@lfmchurch.org](mailto:bbump@lfmchurch.org)

### Larry Baldridge

Pastor of Discipleship

[lbaldridge@lfmchurch.org](mailto:lbaldridge@lfmchurch.org)

### Bryce Ball

Pastor of Student Ministries

[bball@lfmchurch.org](mailto:bball@lfmchurch.org)

### Allie Klopenstein

Pastor of Children's Ministries

[aklopenstein@lfmchurch.org](mailto:aklopenstein@lfmchurch.org)

### Bethany Engel

Administrative Assistant

[office@lfmchurch.org](mailto:office@lfmchurch.org)

### Doug Heacock

Director of Media & Contemporary Worship

[dheacock@lfmchurch.org](mailto:dheacock@lfmchurch.org)

### Vanessa Thomas

Director of Choir & Blended Worship

[vanessathomasvoicestudio@gmail.com](mailto:vanessathomasvoicestudio@gmail.com)